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An
Oration



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Book 585

AN
ORATION,

BY THE

Hon. William Wilkins,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

JACKSON REPUBLICAN CITIZENS

OF

ALLEGHENY COUNTY,

ASSEMBLED AT STEWART'S ISLAND,

ON THE 4TH OF JULY, 1831,

THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF

American Independence:

Published at the request of the Committee of Arrangement.

BY LEONARD S. JOHNS.

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To the Hon. Wm. Wilkins.

SIR—The undersigned, the Jackson Republican Committee of Arrangement, in behalf of your fellow citizens, who celebrated the 55th Anniversary at Stewart's Island, respectfully request a copy of the address delivered by you for publication.

The Committee avail themselves of this opportunity, of conveying to you their thanks for the handsome and eloquent manner, in which you complied with their request in the delivery of this oration. Its publication, the Committee believe, will not only add to the valuable political treasure of the country, but be of essential service in placing the great cause of the people in a proper light before the Union.

Your fellow citizens,

DAVID LYNCH,	ROSS WILKINS,
LEONARD S. JOHNS,	M. R. LOWRIE,
N. P. FETTERMAN,	P. MULVANY,
G. W. BUCHANAN,	JOHN SMITH,
GEORGE DARSIE,	PATRICK DORAN.

REPLY.

THE GULLY, July 5th., 1831.

GENTLEMEN:—I acknowledge the receipt of your note requesting a copy of the address I had the honor of delivering, by your desire, to my fellow citizens assembled on the 4th inst. on General Stewart's Island.

The copy is herewith transmitted to be made use of as you may think proper; and I tender to you my sincere acknowledgements for your kind attention, and the very complimentary manner in which you have spoken of my feeble effort.

However appropriate the occasion, I regret that the time allotted to such an address did not permit a full and detailed examination of the principles and measures of President Jackson—of an Executive Magistrate chosen by the nation as worthy and able to enforce and perpetuate the great principles proclaimed on the memorable day we celebrated, and which make his cause "the great cause of the people."

With respect, gentlemen, your ob'dt. and obliged humble servant,

WM. WILKINS.

To Messrs. David Lynch, Ross Wilkins, Leonard S. Johns, M. R. Lowrie, N. P. Fetterman, Patrick Mulvany, George Darsie, Patrick Doran, George W. Buchanan, and John Smith, the Jackson Committee of Arrangement.

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ORATION.



FELLOW CITIZENS:—

THE lucid declaration, to which you have just listened with such profound attention and undiminished interest, is, probably, all that should be heard upon the celebration of the memorable "4th of July," that luminous beam of liberty and of wisdom—and, however, the disaffected may captiously pretend to consider the reading of that paper as an idle ceremony, it is justly viewed as the finger touching the chord of the harp which should never be unstrung, but whose notes should be made to sound louder and louder till the world shall keep time to its vibrations.

Gratified as I may be by every instance of public duty imposed upon me by my fellow citizens, I would enter upon my present task with more cheerfulness did not the questions continually obtrude themselves—"What can I say that shall be new or interesting on this happy occasion?"—"How can my crude and weak reflections add to the knowledge or the happiness of the thousands and thousands who are at this moment assembled with hearts full of rejoicing and gratitude to Heaven for national blessings unparalleled in the history of man?" But, urged on by the compliment bestowed upon me, I forget my own feebleness, and, throwing myself upon your generosity, and claiming the exercise of the same indulgence from my surrounding neighbours that has sustained and saved me on other occasions, I proceed to obey the call of the committee of arrangement.

The principles of liberty are dignifying and powerfully operative. Wherever we find them in the history of the world we see a people with a brightness of character, and a vast energy in their undertakings—In ancient Greece there was a refinement of intellect, a copiousness of exquisite art, and a renown of valor truly astonishing—Liberty was not equally enjoyed by all the ancient Grecian States; but Thebes was free in the days of Epaminondas, and she wore nothing but the robes of victory. Athens enjoyed the most pure and lasting republicanism; and from her sprung the most celebrated sculptors and painters, the most powerful orators, and her military men have a brilliancy of glory which can never be surpassed.

The spirit of Roman republicanism at first appears triumphing over royal tyranny at home, and in giving to the world a view of the vast value of liberty in a peculiar sacrifice made at her shrine—Brutus, the founder of the Roman republic, sprinkles the banner of liberty with a sacredness of character which could belong to no other earthly possession, by the judicial condemnation and death of his own son! The republic of Rome in after ages had several grand features of character; her activity and energy spread her dominion in every direction; and those whom she conquered she civilized, and placed among them the arts of life—for a republic cannot be great only; it must be good. It's citizens, high as are their own advantages, cannot live to themselves. The light of their principles will shine into other places, and awaken men into the ennobling enjoyments of their nature.

Though the empire of Rome encompassed the civilized world by republican energy; yet, when the reins of government fell into other hands, her strength became enfeebled in all her members, and after some time, failing in the contest with every invader, the vast empire is entirely destroyed. For such, my fellow citizens, is the natural course of things; when the spring of activity in the people of a nation is enfeebled by denying them the right of directing their own affairs—by rejecting their counsel when it is believed that it is needed, and by degrading into the character of slaves those who were conscious that they had the rights of masters, a decline and fall must be the inevitable consequence.

The principles of liberty it appears it is impossible entirely to extinguish. Though the Roman empire brought over the face of the civilized world the oppression of her emperors, and though the Barbarians who overturned it were savage in their tyranny, yet in a few years after the dissolution of the Roman empire and the introduction of the Goths and Vandals into Europe, and the Turks into the west of Asia, the republics of Venice and Genoa arose—never could there be better examples to show the life and energy of republican principles than these two cities. The empires and kingdoms of the world at the time of their renown in all the surrounding regions were great—Venice first sprung forward under republican banners, and she, though a small city, became the mistress in commerce and navigation among the nations. Genoa followed her, and though at the time physically weaker, yet by a spirit of purer republicanism, she not only outstript her rival, but took the chief command among the states of Europe. Columbus was one of her citizens, and though undoubtedly the first in genius, in enterprize, and industry, yet he was indebted to the circumstances of his republican birth, education and busy activity for the formation of that character which introduced such a mighty change among men as the discovery of a new world!

Liberty hitherto seems to have been trying only how different habitations might suit; and now moving into other regions, she adopts a new principle to aid in the communication of her blessings.—Visiting several of the valleys of the Alps she nurses the human mind both in civil and religious freedom, and gives a breadth to the foundations on which she builds, which has preserved, amidst the revolutions of ages, the fabric which she reared without perceptible decay until this time.

With the same design she visited Batavia and Britain; and like her disciple, Solon of old, who said, that he did not give the best laws possible to the Athenians, but only the best that they could bear, she did not open all her treasures to these nations; but adjusted her communications to the age of civilization and the circumstances of the times. Under the bounties of her hand the character and prosperity of these people took a spring like the fruits of the field when a copious rain succeeds a long drought. They became intelligent to the very lowest of their population in comparison with other nations; their commerce encircled the world; and their power grew equally upon their commerce, their agriculture, and the prosperity of the arts and sciences.

To some individuals, however, of these nations, and especially of that which is emphatically called, the land of our fathers, liberty showed more of her secrets than she sat before the public eye, and she instilled a belief into their minds, that nations were yet to enjoy all the lights of freedom which she was making to pass before them. At the same time an overruling Providence was permitting other and influential individuals, invested, indeed, with royalty and the supreme power of the nation to detest and persecute the character of freedom; and thus the men who loved the sight of the fields, of the streams, of the mountains, and woodlands of their native country, and who were the most sober, industrious, and enlightened on political subjects, were forced to leave what had been the home of their fathers for so many generations and the abode of their ashes, and to seek an asylum from tyranny and persecution in an unknown world.

The first pilgrims landed at Plymouth in New England—and, for a moment, we must fix our eye on these seeds of this now great and flourishing nation. On them the robes of liberty are of a purer white than ever appeared in our world before, and on their banners as floating over them is written “that liberty is dearer than country and life.” In ancient Greece and Rome liberty was contented to show herself, like the early histories of the nations, in little fragments which were made up of different materials, and never could be cemented into a firm and harmonious whole. In other countries she was also content to live in mixed society, and to connect her interests with those whose habits and operations she could neither approve, nor ameliorate. But, these Pilgrims came to their new habitation when science had taken deep root among men, when arts were ready to give to industry a controlling power; when liberty, by means of the Press, could every day effectually plead the heavenly origin of her nature and the benevolence of her hand, and when the discoveries of navigation were bringing the scattered inhabitants of the earth into an amity of intercourse, which nothing could enlighten, and permanently maintain, but knowledge and political improvement. The wisdom which directs the destinies of men had sent Columbus to discover this western continent; the event is the most momentous which history can record; but, the greatness of this event would have been but physical and geographical, had not the moral grandeur of the human race, political knowledge and liberty taken up their habitation on this region of the earth so long reserved for their reception. Men may think what they please of these exiles, but they, in the history of the human family, are something like

the Priests who bore the ark into Jordan, leaving the wilderness with its hardships and fiery flying serpents forever behind, to enter upon the land which had been divinely reserved for them.

The spirit of freedom which these first emigrants bore with them, and which others who followed brought along, never fainted nor relaxed in their new habitation. At times it could enjoy itself in all the happy reflections of its nature, and at other times it was warned of the danger of becoming supine while tyranny had such unbroken power and so many arts. A season arrived the face of which became darker and darker; liberty was in danger of being cast out of her new habitation: but she arose, she assembled her children whom she saw numerous and brave; she girded on her armour, and stood firm on the ground which she had chosen. The storm began to rage, and she wished to be heard and understood throughout her own household—she made “a declaration” which communicated in a few words all the unmixed sentiments of her mind, and all the life and energy which can actuate a political community. After our fathers, and we, have enjoyed the blessings of our happy, free and republican institutions, for more than half a century, we have, on the anniversary of that “declaration” of liberty and independence, heard it read; and its terms are so precise, its statements so lucid, we dare not touch it for fear of injuring it. On the principles of it we make only one reflection—Mankind are viewed as brothers with equal rights and privileges in the nation, and, as religious beings, they are considered accountable to Him alone who made them.

The light of the principles of the “declaration of independence” spread with the rapidity of the rays of the morning sun, and our fathers awoke to a just sense of the happy era with which they were visited, and they enrolled themselves the soldiers of freedom, though there was little more present encouragement than the honour of shedding their blood in a fearful struggle which was before them. Inspired with enthusiasm in principles so precious to the human race, and so rich in gifts which posterity were to enjoy, they marched barefooted in the winter’s snow, and sought victory when the very elements had gathered around their enemy to protect them. The contest was long and bloody, and often, as was fabled of Hercules when the choice of good and evil was set before him, it afforded an opportunity of comparing the sacrifice they were called to make, with the excellence of that cause they had espoused; but every hour of reflection only gave firmness to their resolution and buoyancy to their spirits. At length, when liberty had rendered her cause doubly dear by the hardships that were undergone and by the blood that was shed in it, when she had bought renown with many victories for her followers, when she had grasped in her hand two of the most powerful armies with which she had been threatened, she dismissed her people to regulate their own affairs and to apportion among themselves the inestimable blessings which, under her banners, they had won. “The declaration of independence” brought the gold from the mine, bright, pure and unmixed; but, to make these states sit in a circle of permanent order under the eye of liberty, it was necessary that this gold should be stamped with a constitutional impression that should not change its nature, but should

exhibit the laws of order under which the action of our great republic is to move. This constitution was drawn up incapable of little additional perfection from the genius of freedom, and promising an elevation of future flight, which nothing can equal, but the expanded wing of the Eagle when he soars aloft, till the eye loses him in the indefinable distance to which his powerful wing hath borne him!

Some have entertained doubts about the stability of our federal republic. It rests, however, on the firmest basis. Every thing bids defiance to change which is conformable to the nature of man, and the circumstances of the times. But, can republican institutions violate any principle of human nature? No—they elevate it, and place it erect. The advocates of monarchy dare not attack the philosophy of the principles of democracy; they only plead that they are too pure and sublime to be carried into practice. But, my fellow citizens, we live in an age of the world—and an age which, as republicanism is considered the perfection of human nature, will remain satisfied with no other form of government but that which is free. The influence of aristocracy in the old world is being overturned by the success of manufacturers, of mechanics, and of merchants, and, in some places, that of agriculture; for industry raises to wealth and gives a predominancy to the people. Our country is tranquil, and has a luxury of prosperity unknown to other places either in a former, or the present age. What is the comparative condition of other countries? They are like a volcano whose fires have been covered, but which are beginning to break out, shaking the mountain to find a vent, and discovering at various places a fierce jet of flame that bespeaks the unnatural state within, and augurs a tremendous eruption! But, the principles of our government are as immoveably fixed, as they are truly the principles of enlightened human nature, and which the present improved state of the world requires. Yes; when men shall think little of the principle of religious liberty; when the press shall cease to teem with information, and men shall refuse to read the daily vehicles of knowledge; when the schools of philosophy shall bury the lights of liberty which they have long laboured to establish; when arts shall flourish better under the hand of one man who is ignorant of their nature, than under the experience which the practical men of the nation acquire, then may it be supposed, that the liberties of a people situated as we are, and living in an age of the world such as we live in, can maintain a precarious existence only. Our liberty may present us with aspiring parties, each emulously climbing, like the emblems of wisdom on some pillars of antiquity to reach the top; but the improvements of mankind ever since creation, and the manner in which they are heaped up in our felicitous situation, teach us where we stand, and what is given us to enjoy. Our armour is on; and it cannot, like that of ancient warfare, hang loosely and be unbuckled: it is like the array of a republican army—you must destroy the people and bury them in their tomb!

We know that even intelligent men, remembering that the Roman Empire fell by its own greatness, have expressed fears for the preservation of the unity of our republic and the continuance of our free institutions, when our population shall have spread over the immense territories which have yet to be peopled. But, the Roman Empire

differed immensely from what our happy republic can be when it shall have spread itself from the gulph of Mexico to the great Lakes, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean. The Roman Empire was made up of conquered nations, whose military spirit they entirely broke down, and who, when the legions of Rome could not protect them, fell a prey to the first invader. Our population, on the other hand, wherever they march, go with the spirit of freemen, and have an arm always ready, not only to defend, but to awe the nations and tribes that may surround them. Rome had, indeed, made her high ways leading to every part of the Empire, but her legions travelled with their heavy armour, slowly and incumbered, to meet, in a distant corner, an invading foe; whereas it ought not to be forgotten, that the improvements of the world, steam and rail road communication, will convey throughout our extended regions a protecting power with the rapidity that the Roman pigeon carried his cartel to a distant province to beg assistance. Besides, neither the Roman Empire, nor any former Empire of the world, was knit and woven together, and from the state of the countries and condition of the arts, could not be, as our great Republic must necessarily become. Our rivers point out the channels of intercourse, and our canals and rail roads ascending our mountains and winding through our valleys; some passing in one direction and some in another, give to the future prospects of the union a firmness and strength which, perhaps, no other country could receive in an equal degree, and which even the wantonness of disorganization and the wildness of nullification themselves will not be able to tear asunder. Our republic the longer it continues to grow becomes the stronger, not only by its gigantic stature, but by the circulation of the vital fluids to every part, knitting the joints and strengthening the muscles, the organs of motion. And how safe is this robust health and gigantic and increasing form of our political body when entrusted to the care, the wisdom, and the sleepless watchfulness of the disinterested patriot who now sits at the head of our national household! He who, himself but a boy, voluntarily risked his life in guarding with youthful heroism the cradle of the infant republic!

Our republic will not only prosper to bless the countless myriads who in successive generations will spring up within its borders; but she exerts, and will continue to exert, over the destinies of the human race, an influence which is incalculable. It may, however, be the source of regret to the philanthropist that this influence is only partially felt in some countries grasping at freedom whose population may, as yet, be unprepared and unfit to use it—for, our country is not only dignified by a constitution of liberty giving equal rights to all our citizens, and distributing justice and protecting all equally: but we have a feature of excellence among us, which is the soul that moves a republic—our population are enlightened and intelligent—we are a commonwealth of reading and reflecting republicans. In Mexico and in South America there may be numerous patriotic men found who can write a fine constitution, and under an imagination of its excellence, they may enlist armies and valorously fight battles and gain brilliant victories; but pressed down as they are with ignorance in the great body of the people, can these nations manage the affairs of that republicanism after which

they grasp? Freedom falls in their streets; and not aware that the disease is physical and inward, they have attempted once & again to raise her; but she reels and has again to be supported. Still this continent must be regenerated, for however much blood will have to be shed, and however many changes some states have to put on, our republic, which is peaceable and interferes not in the affairs of other nations, is such a mistress by her influence, that she, like Mercury the messenger of the Gods, touches people with the wand of her enchantment, and they never can rest till their constitution be purged of corruption and they grow into a manly vigour and strength.

Those people who estimate the character of this nation by the blessings which its citizens enjoy, look not at the half of the designs which Providence has had in view in setting her up, so pure in political wisdom and so permanent in her elevated and philosophical foundations. The rays of freedom which before were scattered here & there throughout the earth were collected in this republic, that it might be a sun to enlighten and enliven the whole face of the globe. Europe has produced many learned men, and in many places the arts are in the most flourishing condition—all stimulating to political improvement—but it is especially the light which returns from this youthful republic that rouses them to seek a new era in the history of their existence. Some of them looked with admiration and a sisterly feeling on the operations of our earliest infancy, and all of them have been astonished at the rapidity of our growth, and the ease and grace of our movements—they heard, indeed, sometimes a little clamor on which were raised various conjectures; but as our horizon cleared up a little, and they obtained time to examine the machine that was floating before them, they perceived that the mighty vessel of our state was directed along the stream of time with an unchanged course of prosperity—for, my fellow citizens, it matters little whether talents from the north or the south be at the head of our affairs, there is such a vigour in the impelling power and fly wheel of our state machine; should errors be committed they are soon corrected, and wisdom gathers strength from experience to proceed on her way.

Europe at this moment presents an interesting aspect to every philanthropic American, who cannot but be conscious that the mighty strength of these ancient nations is heaving and tossing by the enchanting voice which proceeds from the shores of this republic. Like the sailor who has come safe to port with a cargo of the richest gems; the American hears the storm begin to rage, and sees that others are out at sea. How far, gentlemen, has Providence, giving strength to our youthful limbs, sent us a head in our political privileges and attainments of the most favoured and enlightened nations on the face of the earth! Great Britain herself, the home of our fathers, and the birth place of Bacon, Newton, Hardden, Chatham and Fox, is, when we are reaping the harvest of liberty, lopping off certain excrescences only, and boasting of her reform. A more striking evidence of the distance at which we have left her behind could not be afforded!—Reform! we have no place for a solemn admission of the name! Our political fabric could admit of no great change which would not deform it and render less perfect the beauty, order and proportion of all its parts. That France

and the Netherlands may maintain the freedom they have obtained, and the brave and patriotic Poles shall conquer the iron hand that oppresses them, are objects most devoutly to be desired. Poland! dismembered, plundered and oppressed! Gallant descendants of our common benefactors, Pulaski and Kosciusko! America watches the progress of thy struggle, and awaits its issue with an interest infinitely heightened by the grateful recollection, that on the plains of Savannah were spilt the kindred blood to that which lately flowed so freely on the banks of the Vistula!

In our aspirations for universal political improvement, always so peculiarly excited on our national anniversary, we cannot avoid casting our eye upon many fair portions of Europe engaged in efforts for rational freedom; and under this feeling there is a country, green and sunny by nature but blighted and darkened by man's partial and oppressive hand, to which we turn with special feeling and affection; that country, many of whose sons, and many, very many, of whose descendants mingle in this assembly—whose industry and energy of character pervade our whole community; are seen throughout our towns and our cities and upon our public improvements; whose valor was displayed with great brightness and whose blood flowed abundantly upon every field of battle in every war of our country—patriots at home and volunteers abroad in every struggle for freedom—not to remember the efforts of Ireland to reach that political as well as religious emancipation which must be in store for her, and sincerely to desire its consummation, would be public ingratitude and betray a want of sympathy for those who did more than sympathize for us. But, if those European states at present fail, this much is certain, that days of greater liberty, if not perfect, must come; for the progress of the human family cannot now be retrograde—their way is opened and brilliantly lit up, and our star spangled banner will wave, the emblem of enlightened freedom and liberty among them!—The republic, whose “declaration of independence” you have heard read, is the blessing of her own citizens, and the hope of the world!

If these general reflections upon the character, progress and blessings of republicanism be correct and flattering, how well might we proceed, if time would admit, in an exulting reference to the present administration of that system of government with which we are so content, and of which we so justly boast? And the occasion, how appropriate! For when might we more justly defend the principles and character of our soldier President than on this day, set apart by national gratitude to the commemoration of deeds of valor and of unexampled self devotion? How peculiar the hour, consecrated to the outpourings of a nation's blessings upon the heads of her illustrious benefactors, to speak of the trials and services of that chieftain who is now reaping his reward in the love and confidence of a grateful people! Were you not exhausted by my tediousness, the chilling admonition of political jealousy, nor the cavils of a vexed and indefatigable opposition, should not shut out a direct and calm review of the course of an administration, guided and sustained as it has been, by the same ardent love of country, the same honesty of heart, and enlightened inflexibility of purpose, as were throughout, in every hamlet of the republic and in our gloomiest

est day, felt and acknowledged, with pride and exultation, as virtues to which we owed the safety of our frontier, our cities, and our common country—and the assurance is cheering and encouraging, that this course of wisdom, brightened by the richest prosperity our country has ever witnessed, must proceed smoothly and uninterruptedly under the aid of the new cabinet of counsellors composed of long tried, highly gifted and distinguished republican statesmen.

Individual politicians and aspiring men of the adversary party may be dissatisfied because their ambition cannot be gratified—and, arrayed against the wishes and affections of the people, they are stript of power: but the evidence of our good fortune and the contentment of the great body of the people appears in every direction and surrounds us like the air we breathe and the light we enjoy. In earnestness, you are asked, why it should be otherwise? We point to your national and individual wealth. Whilst the national debt is fast melting away, national improvements are every where rising up. Unlike other nations, whilst your population so rapidly gains, individual riches as rapidly accumulate—for never was there a period in our community when private credit stood so high and pecuniary engagements were met with more promptness and abundance of means. Your commerce and navigation are wisely managed, harmoniously regulated with foreign nations, flourishing and increasing. Agriculture, God's chosen employment for man, gives to its moral and incorruptible followers abundance in return for their industry, whilst our system of internal improvements carries that abundance to profitable and enriching markets. And we point, too, to that system of internal improvement, so early adopted and so wisely nourished by the men of your commonwealth, a system, in its national light, sustained as constitutional and expedient in all worthy and important objects, by your present chief Magistrate—a system which draws us closer together, knits and combines the whole, and is one of the strongest ties tending to render indissoluble the various parts of our political fabric. But, above all, we point to that branch of labour, which encounters the most determined hostility, and yet is the very soul of the whole scheme of a nation's industry—that which engages the attention of the ingenious, the enterprising and the scientific—gives employment to the indigent labourer, and at the same time cheapens the articles of necessity for the poor—gratifies the luxury of opulence—gives business to the whole community in time of peace, and affords us the means of defence in time of war—converts the sand and dust under your feet, the earths and ores of your hills, the products of your fields, particularly those of the south, into goods indispensable to the whole community—renders us no longer tributary to foreign countries; and is, to our aggrandizement, fast changing the commerce of the world—our Domestic manufactures! How delightful and important the subject! How fruitful of interesting facts. These cannot now be detailed—and I must content myself with the simple remark—that your own city of Pittsburgh at this moment produces and gives currency to a greater amount of manufactures than did the entire thirteen original states at the period you are now commemorating. And, such is the enterprize of the merchant and the character of the manufacturer, that your products are now carried in abundance into China, Hin-

dostan and Turkey. Thus, the activity of our countrymen, aided by the wisdom of the commercial arrangements of the present administration, send the fruits of your domestic industry into distant and darkened countries where even the rays of the light of Christianity have scarcely been able to penetrate.

Pennsylvanians! Citizens of that state which is the chief stone giving stability to the mighty arch of our confederation—you, who compose that vital link in the great chain of the nation's prosperity which is shadowed forth by the line of intercourse running from east to west, and which will make Pittsburgh a place whose interests will continue to grow while the waters run by it. Remember, that the policy of your state is truly and essentially the policy of President Jackson—that under his views of public affairs your commonwealth will always occupy a commanding station, and by his principles your great and prominent interests never can be jeopardized. Remember, too, (and it is a melancholy reflection) that as you have now but one survivor of the 53 illustrious signers of that declaration of independence which bears date on the 4th of July '76—so you have now, in all human and political probability, the last man as your Chief Magistrate who defended that declaration in the revolution that followed. Cherish, and keep alive your gratitude. It is a noble sentiment. And at the approaching contest let no political disaster stamp upon you the charge, that you have forgotten that man who never yet forgot you.

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